

## **Abstract**

## METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATED ON-LINE PRINTING SERVICE

There is disclosed an on-line print network comprising a print merchant  
5 computer, and a plurality of print service providers. Within each print service  
provider, orders are satisfied efficiently by optimizing throughput of print jobs  
within the print service provider, whilst at the same time, minimizing media  
wastage and achieving high printer device utilization, under control of a print  
manager computer interfacing with the print merchant computer on the one hand,  
10 and with the plurality of printer devices on the other hand.

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